

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Says U.S. Wants Assad Out For Not Backing Qatari Pipeline



Washington, March 4 (RHC)-- Washington's intention to overthrow Syria's legitimate and democratically-elected President Bashar al-Assad results from his refusal to back a Qatari gas pipeline project, an attorney says.

According to an article published by Politico on Thursday, American attorney and nephew of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., wrote that the U.S. decided to topple Assad after he declined to back a gas pipeline project of the Qatari government.

The project was aimed at building a gas link from Qatar through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey to Europe. The \$10 billion pipeline project first surfaced in 2000 and the CIA went ahead with the plan until nine years later Assad announced that he would not support the pipeline initiative, a move that could grant Qatar direct access to European energy markets via terminals in Turkey.

"Soon after that the CIA began funding opposition groups in Syria," said Kennedy. "If completed, the project would have had major geopolitical implications. Ankara would have profited from rich transit fees. The project would have also given the Sunni kingdoms of the Persian Gulf decisive domination of world

natural gas markets and strengthen Qatar, America's closest ally in the Arab world," he noted.

Kennedy, who is the son of Robert F. Kennedy, added that the pipeline would have also strengthened Saudi Arabia by giving the kingdom additional leverage against Iran.

In a separate interview with Sputnik, Kennedy said: "If we study the history of America's relation with Mideast and looking at the U.S." violent intervention in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt over time and the extraordinary and astonishing thing is the solid record of the cataclysmic failure every time we venture there in violent fashion. Most Americans are completely unaware of our attempting to overthrow the democratically elected government in Syria, contrary to our own State Department policy and contrary to American values."

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